

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6-15, 20, 21, and 23-51 are pending in this application and are presented herein for reconsideration. Applicants submit this paper to delete unintended parenthetical notes following each of claims 25, 26, 31, and 32. MPEP § 710.02(e) states that “[a]n extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is not necessary when submitting a supplemental reply to an Office action if a complete first reply was timely filed in reply to the Office action” and MPEP § 710.02(e) further indicates that a reply is timely filed when the appropriate petition and fee are submitted. Applicants submitted a complete and responsive reply on June 25, 2004, together with the requisite petition and fees. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that a complete first reply was timely filed in reply to the Office action in this case, and no further fee is needed for the entry and consideration of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims

Applicants have amended claims 25, 26, 31, and 32 to remove parenthetical notes not intended to be part of the claims. Applicants submit this change introduces no new subject matter.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request that the amendments to claims 25, 26, 31, and 32 presented herein be entered in the instant application. Applicants respectfully urge that all claims are in condition for allowance and request prompt and favorable action on the instant application. If the Examiner believes that a telephonic interview would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned at (617) 248-7808.

Respectfully submitted,



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